GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A B S T R A C T

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – ACB Cases - Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad – Allegations of Collecting bribes by corrupt means and by misusing official position – Disciplinary action initiated under A.P. Civil Services(CCA) Rules, 1991 – Imposition of the penalty of "Withholding of 5% of Pension for a period of (5) years" under A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 - Orders – Issued.

AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.07 **Dated: 03/02/2023**

Read the following:

1. From the Inspector of Police, A.C.B., C.I.U., Hyderabad, Radio Message dt.14.09.2010
2. Proceedings No. Vig.II(5)403/10, dt.15.9.2010, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad.
3. From the Director General, ACB, A.P., Hyderabad, Letter Rc.No.155/RCO-CIU/2010, dt.24.08.2011.
4. G.O.Ms.No.256, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.24.10.2011
5. Govt. Memo.No.12700/Vig.I-2/2010-4, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.24.10.2011.
6. Memo. No.Vig.II(5) 403/2010, dt.19.11.2011, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad.
7. Written Statement of Defense dt.02.12.2011 of Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad.
8. From the Director General, ACB, A.P., Hyderabad, Letter RC. No.155/RCO-CIU/2010, dt.15.03.2012,
9. Govt.Memo.No.12700/Vig.I-2/2010-II, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.31.07.2012
10. Proceedings No. Vig.II(5)403/2010, dt. 13.08.2012, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad.
11. Memo. No.Vig.II(5)403/2010, dt.08.07.2016, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.
12. Memo. No.Vig.II(5)403/2010, dt.31.03.2015, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad.
13. From the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Letter No.Vig.I(1)403/2010, dt.14.12.2016.
14. From the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Letter No.Vig.II(2)403/2010, dt.12.06.2017 along with Enquiry Officer Report dt.18.10.2016
15. Govt. Memo. No.12700/Vig.I-2/2010, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.06.07.2018.
16. From the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Letter No.Vig.II(2)403/2010, dt.02.06.2020
17. From the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Letter No.Vig.II(2)403/2010, dt.08.01.2021.
18. Govt. Notice.No.12700/Vig.I/2010- I, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.26.05.2022.
19. From the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Letter No.Vig.II(2)403/2010, dt.03.08.2022.
20. Govt. Letter. No.12700/Vig.I/2010, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.22.11.2022 addressed to the Secretary, A.P.P.S.C., A.P., Vijayawada.
21. From the Secretary, A.P., Public Service Commission, A.P., Vijayawada, Letter No.GAD03-APPSC0DCC/116/2022-AEE-APPSC, dt.04.01.2023.

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O R D E R:

In the reference 1st read above, the Inspector of Police, A.C.B., C.I.U., Hyderabad has sent a Radio Message stating that Smt. D.Sailaja, the then Senior Assistant, O/o the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, demanded and accepted the illegal gratification from the dealers of Fertilizers for processing of renewal or issue of fresh wholesale trade licenses of Andhra area and got remitted the said illegal gratification of Rs.7,18,725/- in her savings bank account No. 52117541396 of State Bank of Hyderabad, Gun Foundry branch during the year 2010 and shared with Sri G. Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad.

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2. The Inspector of Police, A.C.B., C.I.U., Hyderabad has further stated that, during the searches, several incriminating material documents and records pertaining to the Fertilizers Licenses were seized and the Accused Officer was arrested on 13.9.2010 at 8.00 P.M. and being produced before the Hon'ble Court of Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases, Hyderabad for judicial remand and investigation is in progress and preliminary report follows.

3. Based on the above report, the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad has placed Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, under suspension w.e.f.13.09.2010, in the reference 2nd read above.

4. In the reference 3rd read above, the Director General, ACB, A.P., Hyderabad, has submitted Final Report, stating that, the oral and documentary evidence is sufficient to prove that the Accused Officer, Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad has committed the offences punishable u/s 7 and 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of the P.C. Act, 1988 and section 34 IPC and hence recommended, Prosecution of the Accused officer in a court of law for the offences u/s 7 and 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of P.C. Act, 1988 and section 34 IPC.

5. In the reference 4th read above, the Government have accorded sanction, for prosecution of Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and also communicated the final report along with draft Articles of charge against the Accused Officer, to the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, in the reference 5th read above, with a request to initiate departmental action as per A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, for failure of submission of Annual Property Returns and conclude the proceedings.

6. In the reference 6th read above, the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad has issued Articles of Charge against Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, with a direction to submit his Written Statement of Defense(WSD) and in the reference 7th read above, the Charged Officer has submitted his Written Statement of Defense (WSD), duly denying the Charges framed against him and requested to drop further action in the matter.

7. In the reference 8th read above, the Director General, ACB, A.P., Hyderabad, has informed that the charge sheet was filed in respect of Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad in the court of Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases, Hyderabad on 21.02.2012 and the case was taken on file in C.C.No.3/2012 by the Special Court.

8. As per the instructions of the Government in the reference 9th read above, the Commissioner and Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, has issued orders in the reference 10th read above, for revocation of suspension of Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, without prejudice to the disciplinary/criminal (prosecution) case pending against him in the A.C.B. Court, Hyderabad.

9. Since the Written Statement of Defence (WSD) submitted by the Charged Officer is far from convincing, the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has appointed Sri Z. Venkateswara Rao, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Seeds), O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, as the Inquiry Authority, in the reference 11th read above, to conduct enquiry into the Articles of Charges issued against the Charged Officer Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and to submit report.

10. Further, the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad has already appointed Smt.K.V.V.Vardhini, Assistant Director of Agriculture (FCO), O/o Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur as Presenting Officer, in the reference 12th read above, to present the case before the Inquiring Authority, on behalf of the Government.

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11. In the mean while, Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad has retired from Public service on 30.06.2014, on attaining age of Superannuation (58 years, T.S retirement age), while working as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, T.S., Hyderabad.

12. In the reference 13th read above, the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur has informed that, Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad, in final allocation of employees, was allotted to Andhra Pradesh state and he has retired from public service on 30.06.2016, on attaining age of Superannuation (60 Years, A.P. State retirement age), while working as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.

13. In the reference 14th read above, the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, has forwarded a copy of the Enquiry Officer's report, dt.18.10.2016, in which the latter has stated that the charges levelled against Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, are held proved.

14. In the reference 15th read above, the Government have requested the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, to communicate the Inquiry Report to the Charged Officer, Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur and to obtain his explanation on the findings of the Enquiry Officer.

15. In the reference 16th read above, the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, has forwarded the representation dt.Nil. of the Charged Officer, Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, in which the Charged Officer has requested to drop further action against him and in the reference 17th read above, the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, has stated that, since the said Charged Officer has denied the findings made by the Enquiry Officer against him, further action may be taken as per rule 9 of A.P. Civil Servces (CCA) Rules, 1991.

16. The Government, after consultation with the advisory department, have taken a provisional decision to impose the penalty of "Withholding of 5% of Pension for a period of 5 years", under A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, on the Charged Officer Smt.D. Sailaja, the then Senior Assistant, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, for the charges held proved against her.

17. Accordingly, in the reference 18th read above, the Government have issued notice against Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, with a direction to show-cause as to why the penalty of "Withholding of 5% of Pension for a period of (5) years" should not be imposed against him for the Articles of Charge issued against him are held proved.

18. In the reference 19th read above, the Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, has forwarded the representation submitted by the Charged Officer Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, in which he has requested to consider his explanation on humanitarian grounds and drop further action in the matter.

19. Since the Charged Officer Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, has not produced any new material or evidence that has the effect of changing the nature of the case, the Government have not considered his representation and decided to impose the above penalty of "Withholding of 5% of Pension for a period of (5) years" on him, under A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

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20. Accordingly, the Government have requested the Secretary, A.P.P.S.C., Vijayawada, in the reference 20th read above, to place above said proposal in respect of the Charged Officer Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, before the Commission, as per Regulation 17 of APPSC, and obtain its concurrence and communicate the same to this Department for further action in the matter.

21. In the reference 21st read above, the Secretary, A.P.P.S.C., Vijayawada has has informed that the Commission has agreed with the proposal of the Government to impose the penalty of "Withholding of 5% of Pension for a period of (5) years" against the Charged Officer Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur and advised accordingly.

22. The Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby, impose the penalty of "Withholding of 5% of Pension for a period of (5) years" on the Charged Officer Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Hyderabad and subsequently retired as Office Superintendent, O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, under A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, for the Articles of Charge issued against him are held proved.

23. The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur shall take further action, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:

Sri G.Ravi Kumar Singh, the then Office Superintendent and subsequently retired,
O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur
(through the Spl.Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur)
The Special Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.

Copy to:

The Prl. Accountant General, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Director General, ACB, Pandit Nehru Bus Station,
NTR Administrative Block, 2nd Floor, Vijayawada, A.P.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Vijayawada.
The District Treasury Officer, Guntur
The P.S. to Secretary, A.P.P.S.C., Vijayawada.
The OSD to A.P. Vigilance Commissioner, A.P.V.C., 5th Block, 1st Floor,
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi
The OSD to Minister for Agriculture, A.P.
Sf/Sc

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER